REMARKS

The Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed October 31, 2006 and offer the following remarks.

Claims 1-19, 59, and 63-69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Applicants have amended claims 1-19, 59, and 63-69 as noted above and submit that, as amended, claims 1-19, 59, and 63-69 are directed to statutory subject matter and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12-19, 36, 37, 39-45, 52, 53, 55-59, and 63-69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by *Cromwell*, A Syntax For the MGCP Audio Package, Internet Engineering Task Force, Internet Draft, XP-002278700 (hereinafter "*Cromwell*"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

According to Chapter 2132.01 of the M.P.E.P., an "Applicant's disclosure of his or her own work within the year before the application filing date cannot be used against him or her under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)." *Cromwell* has a publication date of November 1998. The present application has a filing date of October 29, 1999. Therefore, *Cromwell* was published within the year before the filing date of the present application. David Cromwell is the author of *Cromwell*. The same David Cromwell is also an Applicant of the presently claimed invention. *Cromwell* is a disclosure of the Applicant's own work, which published within the year before the filing date of the present application. Accordingly, *Cromwell* must be removed as a reference and the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12-19, 36, 37, 39-45, 52, 53, 55-59, and 63-69 be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 4, 11, 38, 54, and 60-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cromwell* in view Maurico Arango, Andrew Dugan, Isaac Elliot, Christian Huitema, and Scott Pickens, "Media Gateway Control Protocol", XP-002278702 (hereinafter "*Arango*"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

According to Chapter 2143.03 of the M.P.E.P., in order to "establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." As indicated above, *Cromwell* may not be used as a reference against the pending application. The Applicants submit that *Arango* does not disclose all the features recited in claims 3, 4, 11, 38, 54, and 60-62. More specifically, claims 3 and 4 ultimately depend from claim 1 and claim 54 depends from claim 52. Claim 1 recites a sequence processor comprising a

computer-readable medium, which performs the steps of "receiving a request for playing the sequence of audio segments, wherein the sequence of audio segments comprises at least portions of network-related announcements to be played to a recipient, the sequence being identified by an audio identifier, locating, in an audio server database, the sequence of audio segments based on the audio identifier, and playing the sequence of audio segments to the recipient so that the recipient is apprised of at least one network-related announcement." Claim 52 recites "locating, in an audio server database, a sequence of provisioned audio segments corresponding to the audio identifier and playing the sequence of audio segments to a recipient to convey a network-related announcement." *Arango* does not disclose an audio identifier. Thus, the Applicants submit that *Arango* cannot disclose or suggest receiving a request for playing a sequence of audio segments where the sequence comprises portions of network-related announcements and the sequence is identified by an audio identifier. Likewise, *Arango* does not disclose or suggest an audio database. Thus, *Arango* cannot disclose or suggest locating a sequence of audio segments in an audio database based on the audio identifier. In addition, *Arango* does not disclose or suggest playing a sequence of audio segments so that the recipient is apprised of a network-related announcement. As *Arango* does not disclose or suggest all the features recited in claims 1 and 52, the base claims from which claims 3, 4, and 54 respectively depend, it follows that *Arango* cannot disclose or suggest all the features recited in claims 3, 4, and 54. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 11 depends from claim 7, which recites a processor comprising computer-readable medium which performs the steps of "receiving a request generated by a network component, said request comprising a request to play an audio segment to a recipient, the audio segment relating to a network-related announcement, the request including an audio identifier for identifying a set containing the audio segment and a selector for specifying a member of the set corresponding to the audio segment." The Applicants submit that *Arango* does not disclose or suggest the feature of receiving a request to play an audio segment which relates to a network-related announcement. In addition, as mentioned above, *Arango* does not disclose an audio identifier. As such, *Arango* cannot disclose or suggest that a request includes an audio identifier, which identifies a set containing the audio segment and a selector, which specifies a member of the set corresponding to the audio segment. Claim 7 also recites "selecting the audio segment to be played based on the audio identifier and the selector." The Applicants submit that *Arango*

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does not disclose or suggest selecting an audio segment to be played based on an audio identifier and a selector. Since *Arango* does not disclose or suggest all the features recited in claim 7, *Arango* cannot disclose or suggest the features recited in claim 11. As such, the Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 38 depends from claim 36, which recites a processor comprising, among other features, "means for receiving a request for playing the sequence of stored audio segments, wherein the audio segments comprise at least portions of network-related announcements to be played to a recipient, the sequence being identified by an audio identifier." The Applicants submit that *Arango* does not disclose or suggest a means which receives a request for playing a sequence of stored audio segments where the audio segments comprise portions of network-related announcements. In addition, *Arango* cannot disclose or suggest that a sequence of audio segments is identified by an audio identifier since *Arango* does not disclose or suggest an audio identifier. Claim 36 also recites "means for locating, in an audio server database, a provisioned sequence of audio segments based on the audio identifier." The Applicants submit that *Arango* does not disclose or suggest an audio database. Thus, *Arango* cannot disclose or suggest a means which locates a sequence of audio segment in an audio database based on an audio identifier. Moreover, claim 36 recites "means for playing the sequence of audio segments to the recipient so that the recipient is apprised of at least one network-related announcement." The Applicants submit that *Arango* does not disclose or suggest a means for playing a sequence of audio segments such that the recipient is apprised of a network-related announcement. As *Arango* does not disclose or suggest all the features of claim 36, it follows that *Arango* cannot disclose or suggest all the features recited in claim 38 and the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 60 recites an audio server comprising "an interface card for receiving a request for playing a sequence of stored audio data segments, the audio data segments comprising at least portions of network-related announcements to be played to a recipient, the sequence being identified by an audio identifier." The Applicants submit that *Arango* does not disclose an interface card which receives a request for playing a sequence of stored audio segments which include portions of network-related announcements. In addition, as mentioned above, *Arango* does not disclose or suggest an audio identifier. Thus, *Arango* cannot disclose that a sequence is identified by an audio identifier. Claim 60 also recites "an audio server database embodied in a
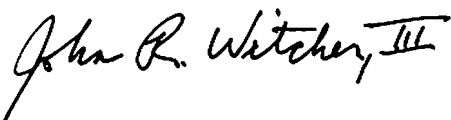
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memory device storing provisioned sequences of audio data segments." As detailed above, *Arango* does not disclose an audio database. Thus, the Applicants submit that *Arango* cannot disclose an audio server database embodied in a memory device which stores provisioned sequences of audio data segments. Additionally, claim 60 recites "a processor programmed to extract a sequence of audio segments from the audio server database using the audio identifier in the request." The Applicants submit that *Arango* does not disclose a processor which is programmed to extract a sequence of audio segments from an audio server database using an audio identifier. Accordingly, claim 60, along with claim 61, which depends therefrom, is patentable over *Arango* and the Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 62 recites "wherein the audio server database includes sets having members representing audio data segments, and each of the members being selectable by a selector, and wherein the processor is programmed to locate a set in the audio server database based on an audio identifier received in a request and to locate a member in the set based on the selector received in a request." The Applicants submit that *Arango* does not disclose or suggest an audio server database that includes sets having members representing audio segments where each of the members is selectable by a selector. Moreover, *Arango* does not disclose or suggest that a processor is programmed to locate a set in an audio server database based on an audio identifier. Therefore, for this additional reason, claim 62 is patentable over the cited reference and the Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The present application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' representative regarding any remaining issues in an effort to expedite allowance and issuance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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